

WHY DOES MY CHILD NEED THE HPV VACCINE?

The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) is a very common virus in the United States that is spread through intimate contact. Almost everyone will get HPV at some point in their lives.

Most HPV infections will go away, but some do not. The vaccine protects against the HPV strains that cause genital warts and some cancers. HPV affects both males and females.

HPV-RELATED CANCERS MAY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

- Anal
- Cervical
- Certain Throat Cancers
- Penile
- Vaginal
- Vulvar

CANCER PREVENTION STARTS WITH:

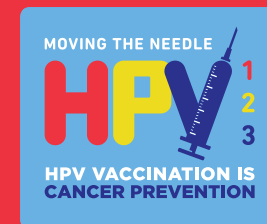
THE HPV VACCINE

It is recommended that all 11-or-12 year-olds receive two doses of the HPV vaccine at least six months apart. Teens who start the series later, from ages 15 through 26, will receive three doses of the vaccine.

Generally, preteens receive the HPV vaccine at the same time as the Tdap and meningitis vaccines.

HPV VACCINATION IS CANCER PREVENTION.

Get your child vaccinated today. You can reduce your son or daughter's risk of HPV-related cancers by up to 99%.



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AT WHAT AGE SHOULD MY CHILD GET THE HPV VACCINE?

The American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Family Physicians, and the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommend the vaccine for all girls and boys when they are 11 or 12 years old, so they have time to develop an immune response well before intimate contact with another person.

If your child is older than 12 and hasn't received the vaccine, it's not too late. The vaccine is recommended up to age 26.

IS THE VACCINE SAFE?

The HPV vaccine has been studied in tens of thousands of people and is shown to be safe. As of March 2016, more than 90 million doses have been given in the U.S., and the CDC, which monitors vaccine safety, reports no serious safety concerns.

WHAT ARE THE SIDE EFFECTS?

The most common side effects reported after HPV vaccination are mild and similar to other vaccine side effects. They include:

- pain and redness in the area of the arm where the shot was given
- fever
- dizziness
- nausea

Some teens may faint after getting a shot. Sitting or lying down for about 15 minutes should reduce the chances of fainting.

HOW DO I GET THE VACCINE?

The next time you have an appointment with your child's physician, ask about getting the HPV vaccine, or contact your physician to schedule a vaccine appointment today.

HOW MUCH DOES THE VACCINE COST?

Most major insurance providers cover the full cost of the vaccine.

If you do not have insurance, your child may be covered under the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program. Children through 18 years of age must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- Medicaid eligible
- Uninsured
- Underinsured
- American Indian or Alaska Native

To find a VFC-enrolled provider near you, call: 1-877-PA-HEALTH (1-877-724-3258)

For more information, contact your healthcare provider.

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